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ABSTRACT

One of a series of instructional materials produced by the Literacy Council of Alaska, this booklet provides information about the control of rabies. Using both simplified sentence structure and vocabulary, it describes how rabies may be spread, its symptoms, its treatment, and ways it can be prevented. (FL)

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The Mad Fox Disease Rabies

by

Rosanne Keller

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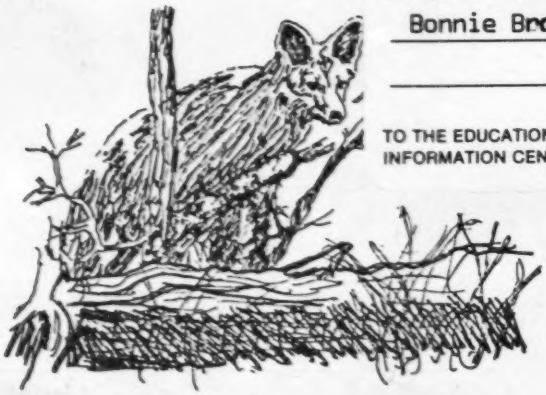

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Alaska Area Native Health Service
Office of Environmental Health
Environmental Health Services
Anchorage, Alaska

Key Words

virology-study of virus diseases like rabies
disease-sickness
rabies-disease of the nerves and brain
rabid-having rabies
paralysis-loss of the use of muscles
vaccination-a shot that keeps dogs, cats or people from getting a disease
vaccine-the serum or medicine in the shot
veterinarian-a doctor for animals
virus-something that causes certain diseases
ferocious-wild, mean, fierce, biting
Anti rabies Treatment-shots given to a person who has been around a rabid animal so that person will not get rabies
Rabies Investigation Report-a form that tells who was bitten -when and where
Rabies Biohazard label-a mailing label to put on the outside of a specimen being sent in
specimen-(for rabies) head of an animal people think has rabies

Rabies!

The sound of this word chills the blood.
Mothers call their children in.
Fathers run for their guns.

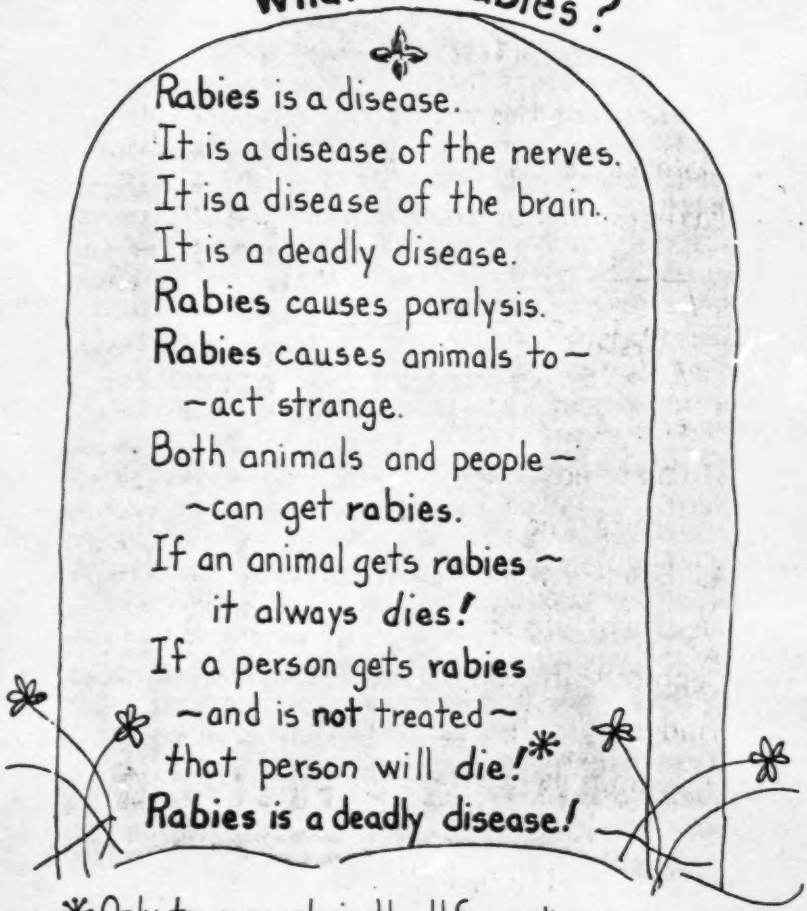
Rabies!

Everyone fears it.
Rabies has been feared
since the beginning of time.
Old timers tell tales about crazy wolves.
You hear about foxes that act tame.
People talk about mad dogs.
And they tell about kids being killed by
animals with Rabies!

But what is it we fear?

Rabies! What is it?

What is rabies?



Rabies is a disease.
It is a disease of the nerves.
It is a disease of the brain.
It is a deadly disease.
Rabies causes paralysis.
Rabies causes animals to—
—act strange.
Both animals and people—
—can get **rabies**.
If an animal gets **rabies**—
it always *dies!*
If a person gets **rabies**
—and is **not** treated—
that person will *die!**
Rabies is a deadly disease!

*Only two people in the U.S. are known to have had **rabies** and lived.

Where is rabies found in Alaska?

Rabies is always found ~
~where there are foxes.

The dark area on this map shows where rabies is most often found in foxes.
In this area rabies is sometimes found in other wild animals.
And wherever rabies is found in wild animals~ it is also found in dogs and cats!

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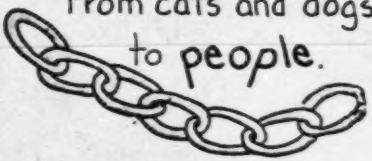
Rabies
can be
prevented!

In Alaska, **rabies** starts with the fox.
From foxes it spreads to other animals.
From cats and dogs it spreads to **people**.



It is like a chain.

We cannot prevent foxes from having **rabies**.
But we **can** prevent **rabies** in dogs and cats.
We can prevent **rabies** with:

➡ **Animal Control**
Get rid of strays
and all unwanted dogs and cats.

➡ **a Rabies Vaccination Program**

Start a program for —
Animal control and
Rabies Vaccination
in your community. *Now!*
Contact your **sanitarian** to find out how.

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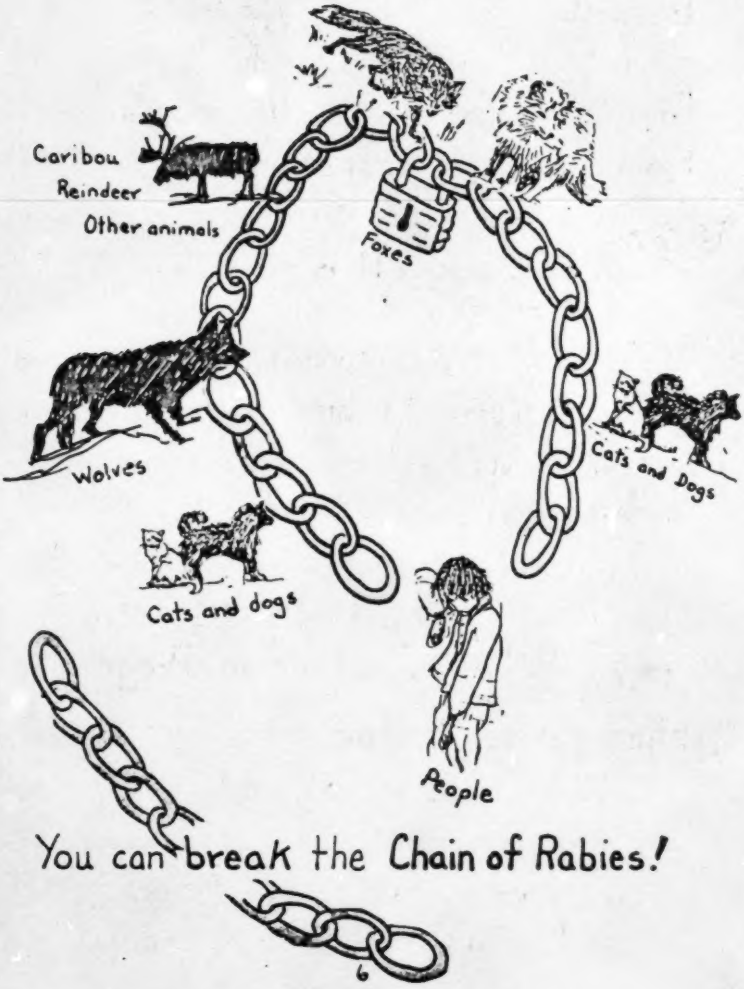
The Chain of Rabies



You can break the Chain of Rabies!

Questions People Ask

about **Rabies**...

How does a person get rabies?

What happens when a person gets rabies?

What should a person do
when he has been exposed to rabies?

How do you find out right away
if an animal has rabies?

What happens when an animal gets rabies?

What should you do with a biting dog or cat?

What if your dog or cat is bitten by
a wild animal?

How does a person get rabies?

A person **usually** gets **rabies**
from the bite of a **rabid** animal.

But, a person can also get **rabies**
from just **handling** a **rabid** animal.

The **virus** that causes **rabies**
is in the saliva or spit of the animal.

A person can get rabies
if he has cuts
or scratches on his hands
—**and if** the spit of a **rabid** animal
gets in the cut!

Even if the animal
doesn't **bite** him.
Even if the animal
is dead in a trap!

What happens when a person gets rabies?

If a person is exposed to **rabies**
and is **not** given Anti**rabies** treatment,

he can get **rabies**
in 12 days to one year.

Rabies is a disease of the brain.
It is a disease of the nerves.
Rabies causes headache,
fever, nausea, sore throat.
It starts out like the flu.
The place where the person
was bitten gets very **sore!**

Then~
The person gets paralysis,
mostly in the jaws and neck.
He acts wild, starts to drool,
then he **dies.**

What should a person do when he has been exposed to rabies?

If a person has been bitten ~
or if he has handled a **rabid** animal
(even if you just **think** it is **rabid**),

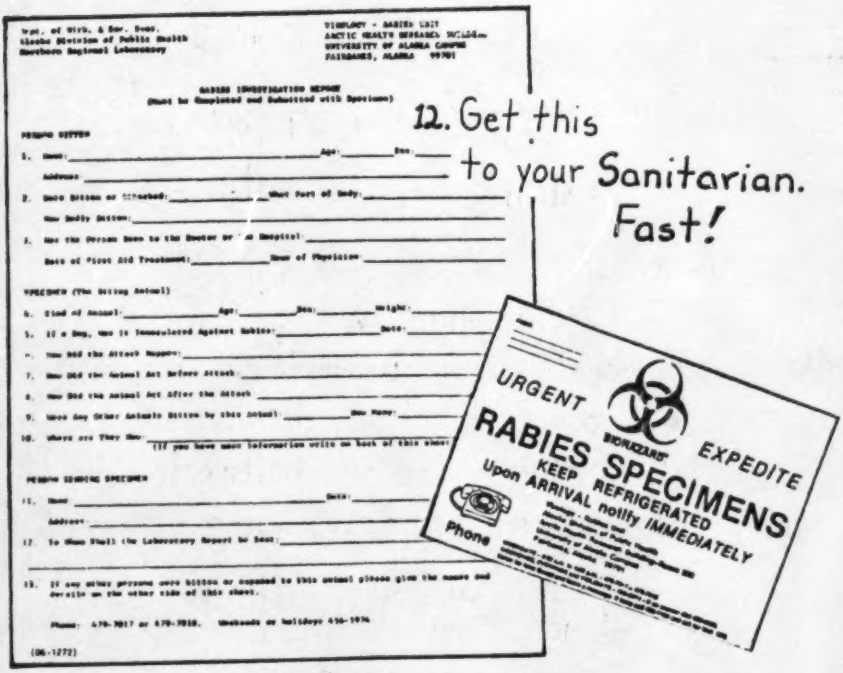
1. Wash the area with soap and water.
   Over and **over!**
2. Get the Village Health Aide. **Fast!**
3. Get to a doctor. **Fast!**
4. Find out **right away**
   if the animal has **rabies!**

If the doctor says Antirabies treatment
is needed ....
that is better than getting **rabies!**

A person **will not** get **rabies**
if the Antirabies treatment
is started **right after** he is exposed.

How do you find out *right* away if an animal has rabies?

1. Kill the animal.
   Do not damage the head!
2. Wear gloves when handling the animal.
3. Cut off the head at the base of the neck.
   Clean the axe or knife carefully.
4. Wrap the head in newspapers.
5. Put it in **two** heavy, leak proof plastic bags.
   Seal each bag tightly.
6. Put this into a leak-proof container (with ice).
7. Seal container tightly.
8. Put dirty gloves in the container (or burn them).
9. Burn or bury the carcass to keep away from other animals.
10. Wash your hands well.
11. Put a Rabies Investigation Report in an envelope and tape it to the container.



12. Get this to your Sanitarian. Fast!

The sanitarian will put a **Biohazard Label** on the container, **and** send it to the **Virology Unit** in Fairbanks.

At the **Virology Unit**, they will test the head of the animal for **rabies**.

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What happens when an animal gets rabies?

At first the animal acts fine ~
~ like nothing is wrong.
Then the animal begins to act strangely.
A ferocious animal may act tame.
A shy, quiet animal may become ferocious.
A wild animal might walk up to a person.
A friendly dog might bite someone
it has always loved.

There are two kinds of rabies ~

mad rabies, and dumb rabies.

An animal with "**mad rabies**" will bite anything.
It will attack even trucks, brooms, sno-goes!
It is ferocious.
It may foam at the mouth.

An animal with "**dumb rabies**" is quiet.
Its bark sounds strange.
It moves slowly.
It may drool or slobber.

Sometimes a rabid wild animal
seems friendly and unafraid.
People have been bitten
when they try to help an animal like this.

What should you do with a ferocious dog or cat — that bites?

Even if the animal has been vaccinated, it must be checked for **rabies.**

If the animal has **not** been vaccinated, it **can** have **rabies.**

Chain or cage the animal **away from people.**
Watch it carefully.

If the animal **gets sick** — or dies, tell the **Health Aide** or **Sanitarian.**

A ferocious animal that bites is dangerous, even if it doesn't have rabies!
Check with your **Sanitarian** for advice.

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What if your dog or cat is bitten by a wild animal?

Kill the wild animal and **send** its **head** to your **Sanitarian.**

Keep the dog or cat **away from people**

and other animals until you get the **report.**

If the wild animal is found to **have rabies**~ or if it has run away, call your **Sanitarian.**

If your dog or cat has not been vaccinated, it may have to be **killed!**

Never chain or cage a wild animal to try to check it for **rabies.**

Sometimes a wild animal can have **rabies** and **not** act sick or look strange.

But~if you see a sick looking animal, **Kill it** ~ and send its head to the **Sanitarian.**

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Healthy Animals Depend on You!

Dogs ~ whether they are pets
or sled dogs ~
cannot make it without help.

If they **run loose**,
they become like
wild animals!

If you have dogs or cats:
Feed them well.
Give them a comfortable,
dry place to live.
Keep them tied or fenced.
Give them the attention they need.
And remember ~
vaccinate them against **rabies!**

Rabies is a danger to **everyone!**

Fear of **rabies** is very real!

You can help prevent rabies.

↘ Start an animal control program.

Get rid of all unwanted or stray dogs + cats.

If foxes enter your area
and if they act strangely,
they should be **killed.**

↘ Start a rabies vaccination program!

Vaccinate all dogs and cats.

Vaccinate them as recommended.

People in the village should be **trained**
to give the shots.

Keep records of when animals are **vaccinated.**

↘ Your Sanitarian will help you!

By controlling rabies,
man and his animals
can live in harmony!

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